

**MARVEL
NOW!**



TM



AR

007

Q: Aww-right! Time to read the latest **A + X**!

A: NOT just ANY old comic! This is **A + X**! A match-'em-up **MASTERPIECE**! A team-'em-up **TRIUMPH**! Two punch-'em-up **PAIRINGS** of **AVENGERS** and **X-MEN** for two whole stories, each more **AWESOME** than the sum of its parts!

Q: I know! I read the first six. I especially like how newbie-friendly these stories are. Like, I didn't have to know Iron Fist's entire--

A: Continuity-SCHMONTINUITY! If you like super-powered pals socking bad guys **IN THE FACE**, you're **ALL** caught up!

Q: Right, yeah...that's what I was saying. Um...who is in the first story?

A: Have you been living under a **ROCK**? Ever heard of **IRON MAN**? The well-coiffed **AVENGER** genius? Or how about the not-at-all-coiffed **X-MAN** genius, **BEAST**? Can you even **IMAGINE** what would happen if they combined mind **AND** muscle power?

Q: I mean, I think I can, but I'm looking forward to reading it anyway. What about the other story?

A: Oh-ho-HO! I see you already forgot: I said there were **TWO** tales of tail kicking! In the **SECOND**, god of thunder and olde-timey talking Avenger **THOR** teams up with man of ice and joke-cracking **ICEMAN**! He's from the **X-MEN**! Do you **GET IT YET?**!

Q: Yes, I've been saying the whole time: I have **A + X** on my pull list at my local comic shop.

A: It's **NOT THAT COMPLICATED, DUDE**! Four heroes, two stories, **FUN FUN FUN**!

Q: Oh, I get it! I'm supposed to be the dumb Abbott to your enthusiastic Costello, right? How's this?

Duhhh, pretty pictures!

A: **PRETTY IS RIGHT!!** Welcome aboard, **TOTALLY NEW READER**!



IRON MAN

+

THE BEAST

**ZEB
WELLS**
WRITER

**DALE
KEOWN**
PENCILER

**NORMAN
LEE**
INKER

**MORRY
HOLLOWELL**
COLOR ARTIST

**VC'S CLAYTON
COWLES**
LETTERER

**THE MIGHTY
THOR**

+

ICEMAN

**CHRISTOPHER
YOST**
WRITER

**ORPHANS CHEEPS
(R'JOHN BERNALES & CHRIS TURCOTTE)**
ARTISTS

**VC'S CLAYTON
COWLES**
LETTERER

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WHITE**
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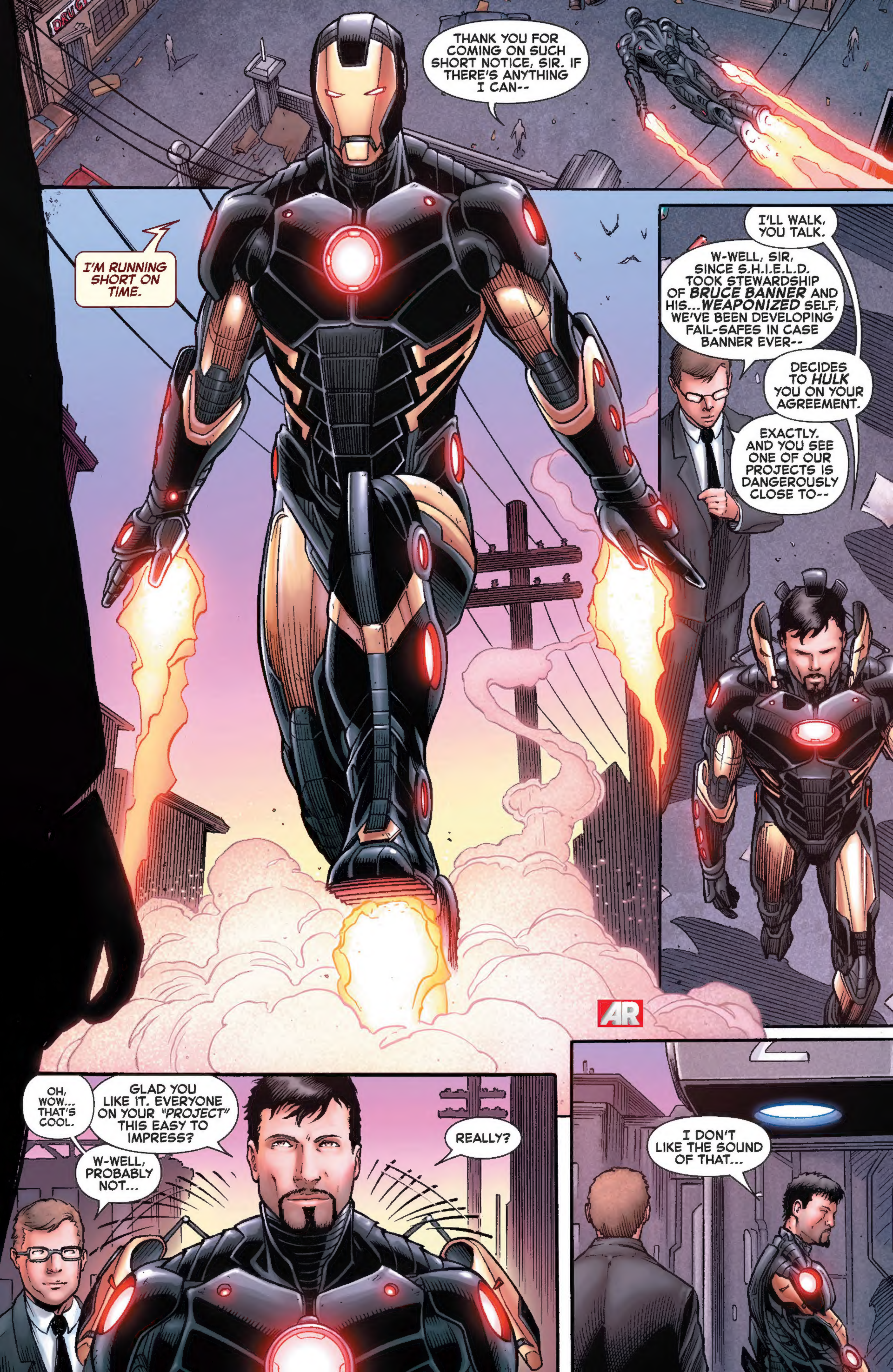
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**AXEL
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EDITOR IN CHIEF

**JOE
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CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

**DAN
BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

**ALAN
FINE**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, SIR. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN--

I'M RUNNING SHORT ON TIME.

I'LL WALK, YOU TALK.

W-WELL, SIR, SINCE S.H.I.E.L.D. TOOK STEWARDSHIP OF **BRUCE BANNER** AND HIS... **WEAPONIZED SELF**, WE'VE BEEN DEVELOPING FAIL-SAFES IN CASE BANNER EVER--

DECIDES TO **HULK** YOU ON YOUR AGREEMENT.

EXACTLY. AND YOU SEE ONE OF OUR PROJECTS IS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO--

AR

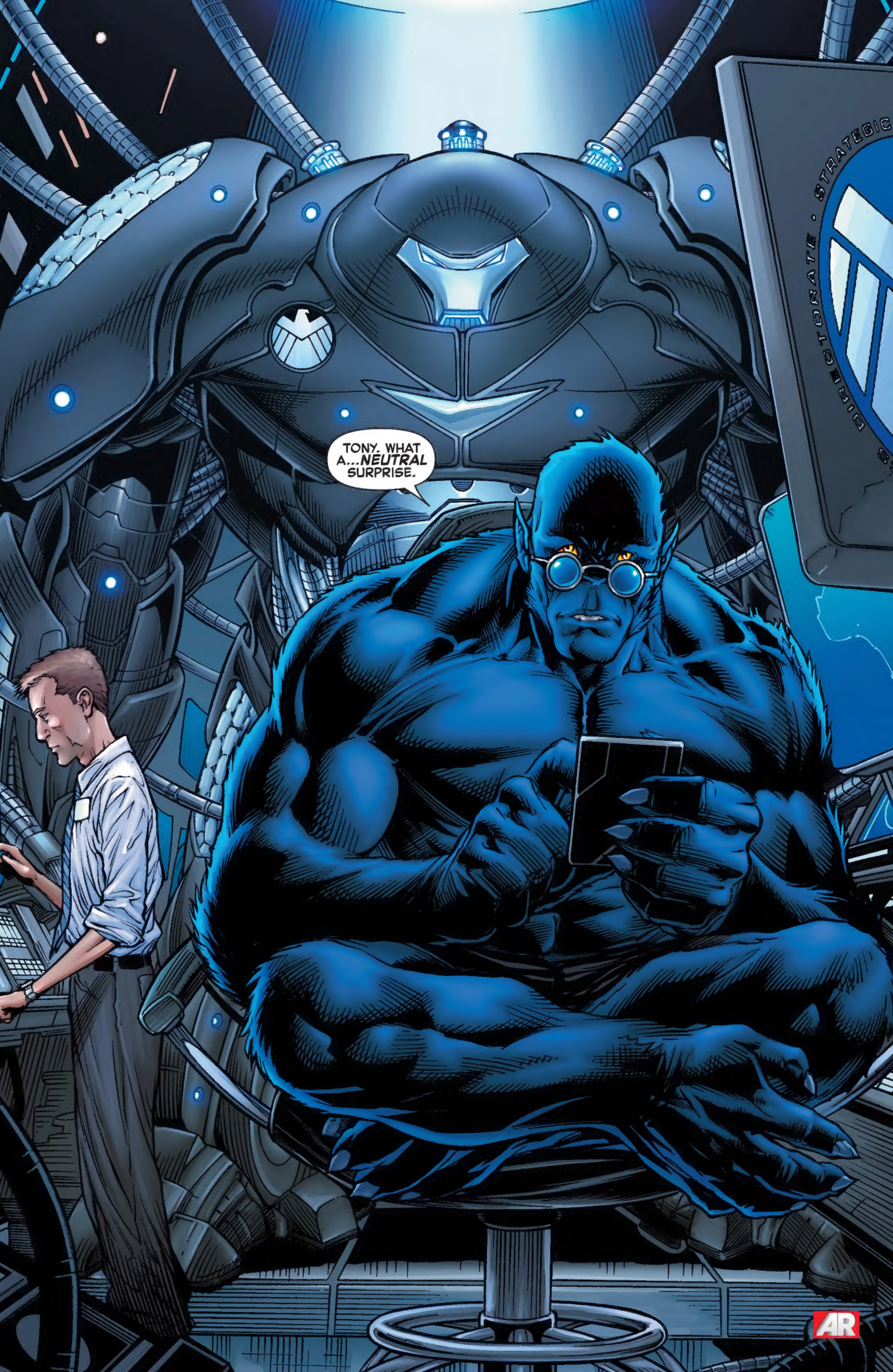
OH, WOW... THAT'S COOL.

GLAD YOU LIKE IT. EVERYONE ON YOUR "PROJECT" THIS EASY TO IMPRESS?

W-WELL, PROBABLY NOT...

REALLY?

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT...



TONY. WHAT
A...NEUTRAL
SURPRISE.



HANK, YOU CHANGED YOUR LOOK.

AGAIN.

YOU'RE NOT STILL *DRINKING* YOUR EXPERIMENTS, ARE YOU?

HMMM.



EXCUSE ME WHILE I GIVE MYSELF POINTS FOR LEAVING EVERY COMEBACK INVOLVING "*DRINKING*" ON THE TABLE...

APPRECIATED, BUT DEDUCT A FEW FOR ORIGINALITY. YOUR "*FAIL-SAFE*" IS A BLATANT RIP-OFF OF MY HULK-BUSTER ARMOR.



I'M AFRAID YOU'RE ONLY HALF-RIGHT...WHICH MEANS YOU'RE PLAYING AT YOUR NORMAL HANDICAP, I THINK.

THIS IS A HOMEGROWN S.H.I.E.L.D. PROJECT. MY FAIL-SAFE WAS A SERUM THAT GRANTED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS HULK-LIKE STRENGTH FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME.

UNFORTUNATELY THERE WERE... COMPLICATIONS.



GOOD GOD. YOU *DRANK* IT, DIDN'T YOU?



NO, I DID NOT.

I DID.

BUT WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT.

NO, NO WE DO NOT.



THAT'S NO FUN...

AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS A PROBLEM THAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT.



I JUST HEARD MY MATING CALL.

DO TELL.

THIS ROBOT WAS BUILT AS AN AUTOMATED **HULK-DETERRENT**...AND A SINCERE HOMAGE TO YOUR DESIGNS, I'M SURE... UNFORTUNATELY, SOME NEFARIOUS AGENT HAS MANAGED TO INFECT ITS CORTEX WITH A FEW HUNDRED LINES OF HOSTILE CODE.



S.H.I.E.L.D.'S AUTO-FAIL-SAFES HAVE KEPT THE VIRUS AT BAY SO FAR, BUT IT'S EVOLVING EVERY 3.5 SEC--

SHH SHH. LET YOUR FATHER WORK-- I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE FIX IS SOMETHING YOU CAN POWER-CHUG OUT OF A GRADUATED CYLINDER.

HRMPH...



FAIL-SAFES DISABLED.

IS THAT WISE?

AGGRESSIVE CODE SPREADING.

I NEED TO GET MY FINGERS IN THERE.

WOW, **NICE**. THE CODE IS REALLY DOWN IN THERE. THE GAME IS AFOOT...

SYSTEM CORRUPTION AT 32%.

FIRMWARE INFECTION. HAVEN'T SEEN THAT BEFORE.

SYSTEM CORRUPTION AT 56%.

HA. THIS GUY'S GOT A STRONG GAME. BUT I COME ALIVE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

SYSTEM CORRUPTION AT 93%.

OKAY, WHEN IN DOUBT, CHEAT.

SYSTEM CORRUPTION COMPLETE.

**TIK TIK TIK TIK
TIK TIK TIK TIK**



GREEN OPS MECHA 001 ACTIVATED.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU, HANK. I JUST GOT MY ASS KICKED.



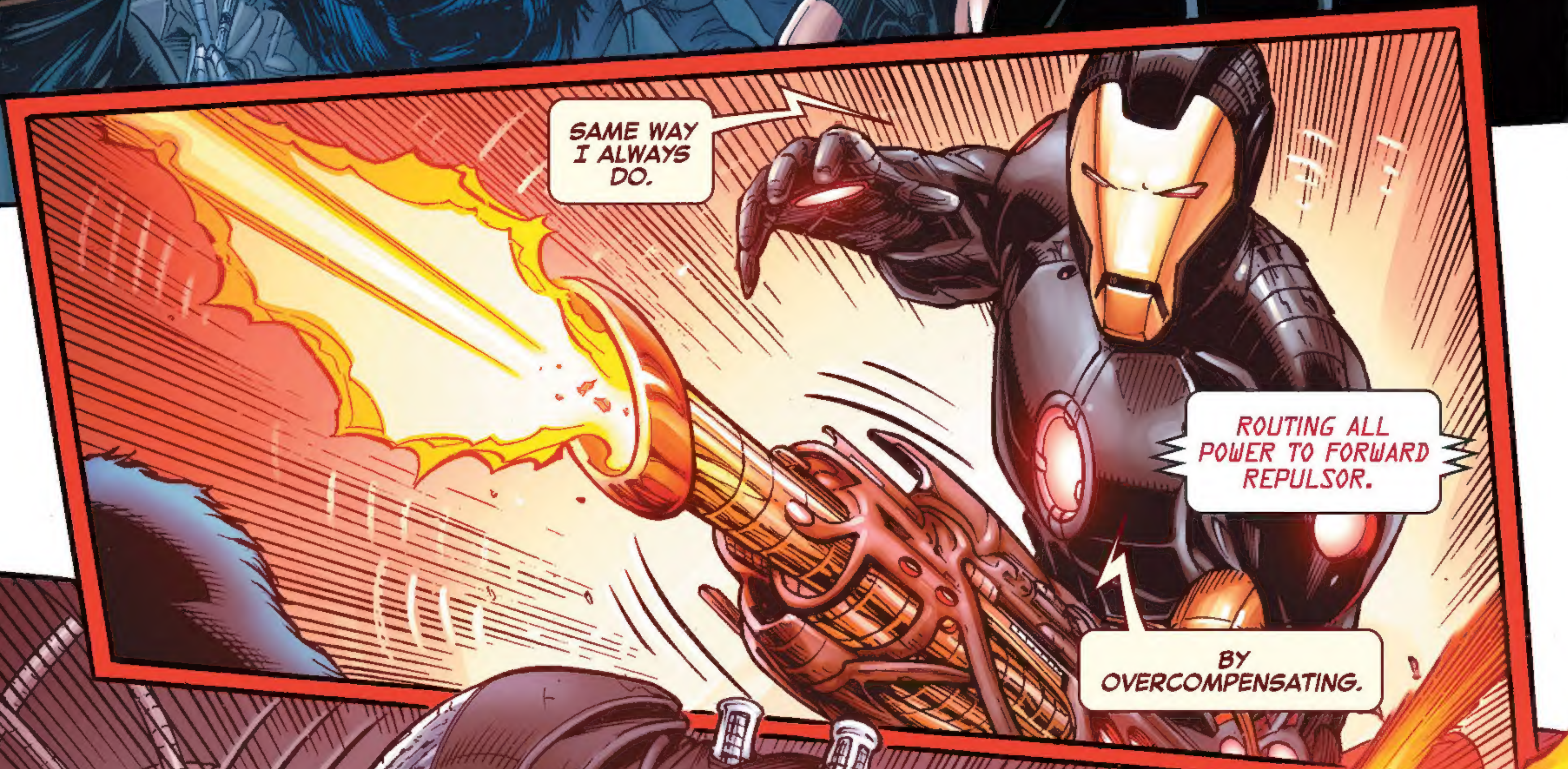


THAT WAS A
FAIRLY SERIOUS
LAPSE IN JUDGMENT.
ARE YOU DRUNK?

IT'S MUCH,
MUCH WORSE
THAN THAT.

SOMEONE
OUT THERE IS
BETTER THAN
ME.

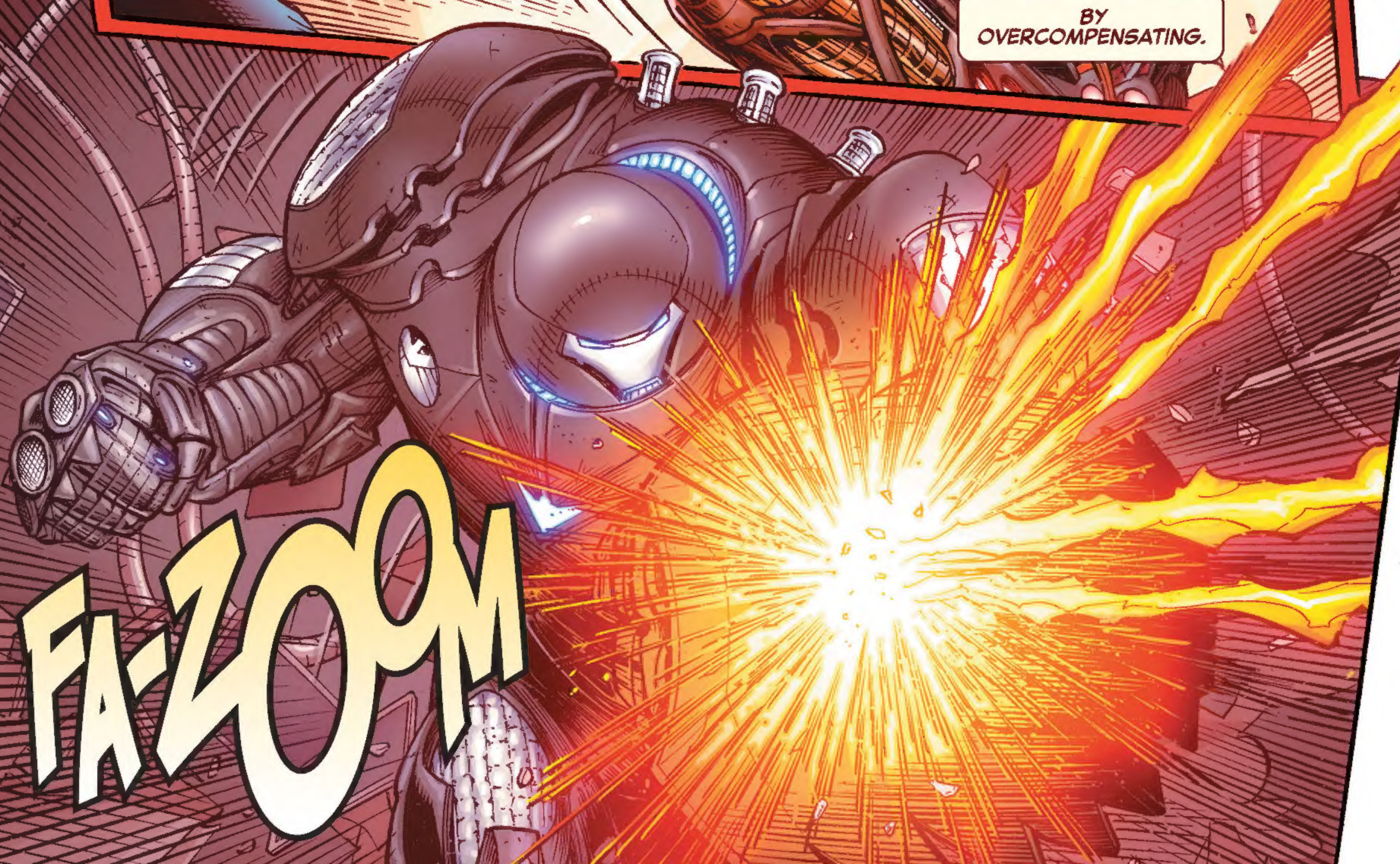
OH, DEAR.
HOW WILL YOU
DEAL WITH
THAT?



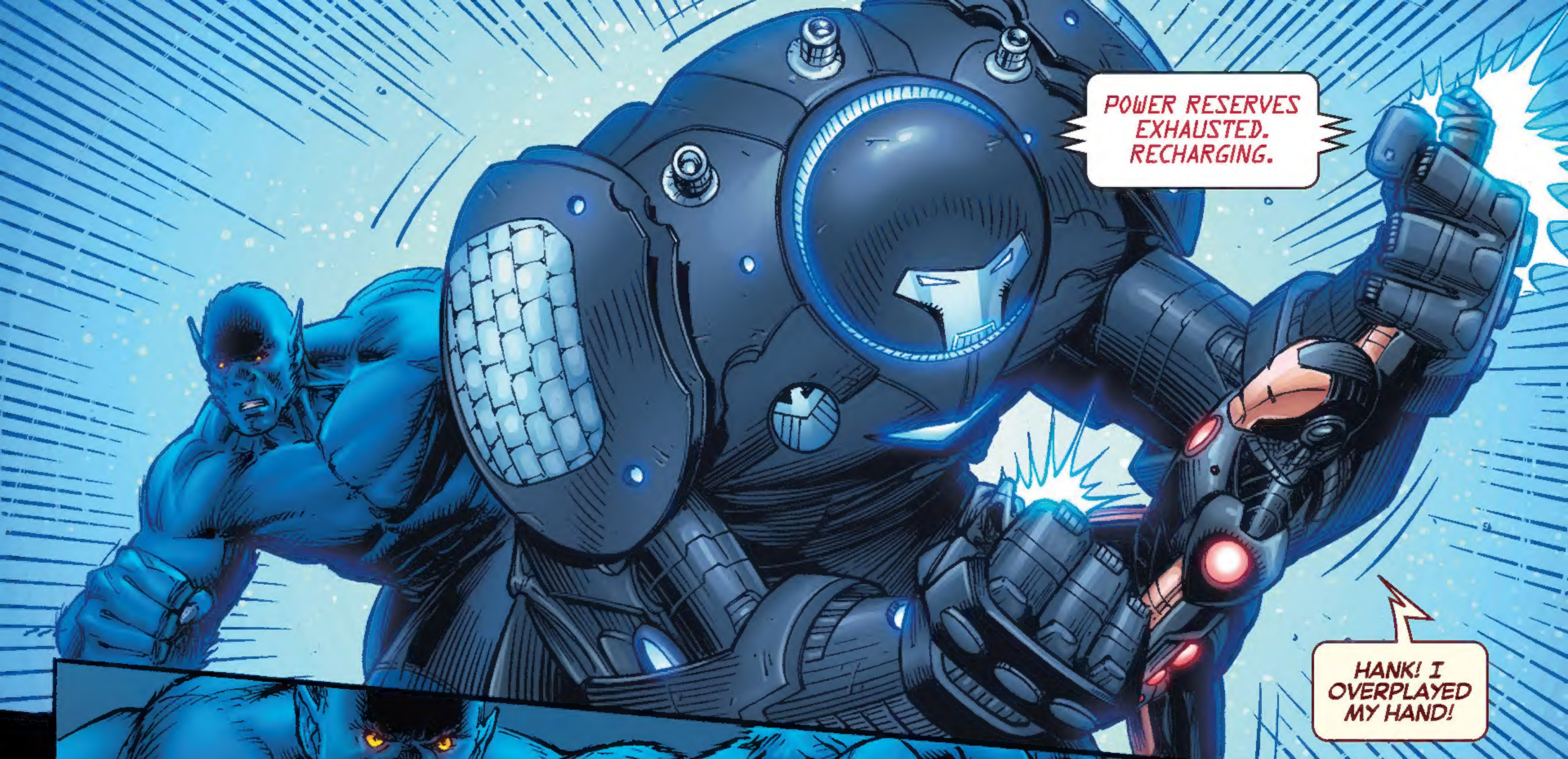
SAME WAY
I ALWAYS
DO.

ROUTING ALL
POWER TO FORWARD
REPULSOR.

BY
OVERCOMPENSATING.



FAZZOOM

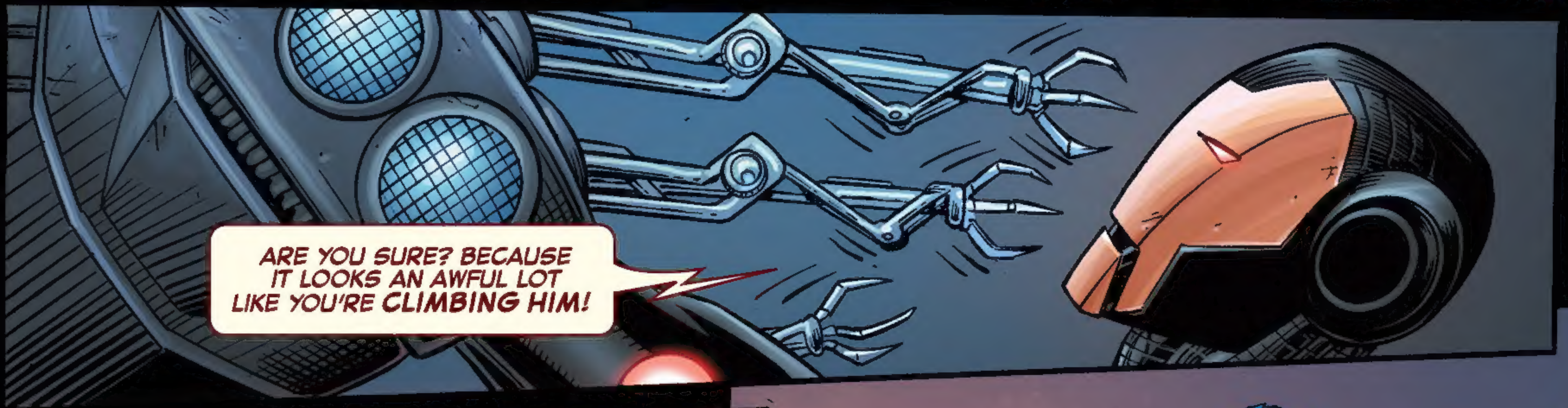


POWER RESERVES
EXHAUSTED.
RECHARGING.

HANK! I
OVERPLAYED
MY HAND!



I'M ON IT!



ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE
IT LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT
LIKE YOU'RE CLIMBING HIM!



DUDE!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU
RAN A SEAM RIGHT DOWN
YOUR FACE!



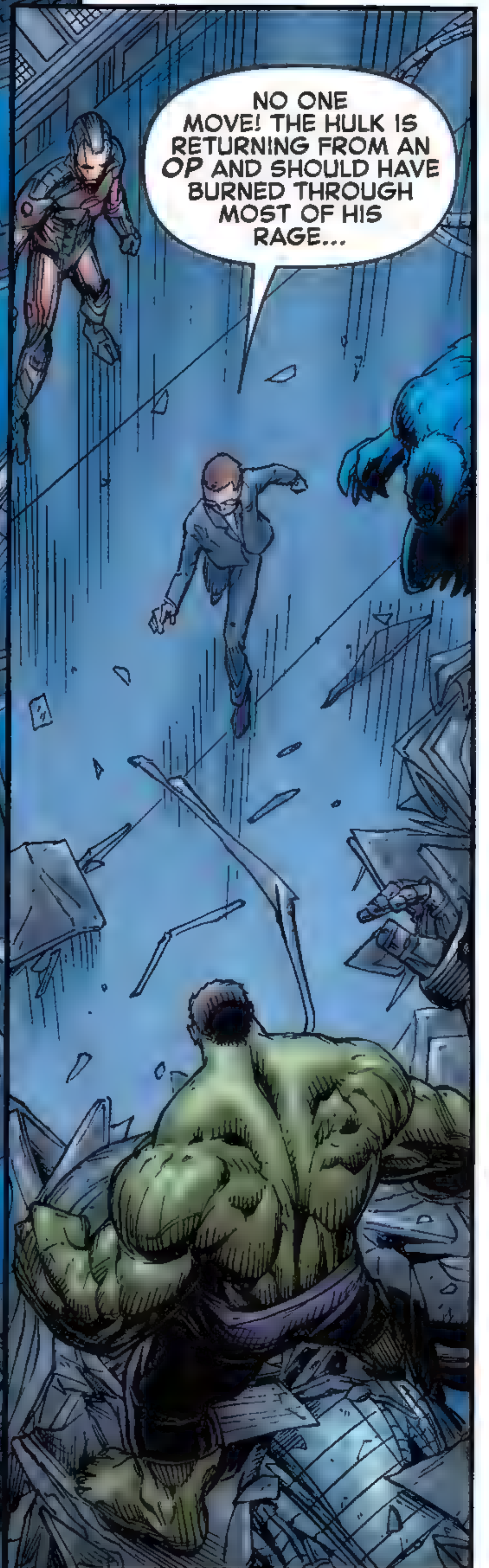
BUT
IT LOOKS
COOL!





WELL,
IT LOOKS LIKE
OUR LUCK HAS
CHANGED.

TO
&#\$.%



NO ONE
MOVE! THE HULK IS
RETURNING FROM AN
OP AND SHOULD HAVE
BURNED THROUGH
MOST OF HIS
RAGE...



WHEN HE'S
LIKE THIS, WE CAN
USUALLY TRIGGER
TRANSFORMATION
WITH PSYCHIC
IMAGERY.



**WHAT KIND
OF IMAGERY
ARE WE TALKING
ABOUT?**

**PUPPIES,
MOSTLY.**

THERE
HE GOES.
GOT 'IM.



WHA...
WHAT DID I
DO?



DISPROVED A
CONCEPT S.H.I.E.L.D.
HAD BEEN WORKING
VERY HARD ON.

AND
ALSO SAVED
OUR LIVES.

HANK'S
EXAGGERATING.
I'D PERSONALLY
LIKE ANOTHER
CRACK AT IT.



IT DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE YOU'RE GOING
TO GET IT. I HOPE YOUR
BRUISED EGOS FIND
ANOTHER WAY
TO HEAL.



I PLAN ON
LIVING WELL.
THAT WILL BE MY
REVENGE. GOOD
DAY, BRUCE.

GOOD DAY,
AND THANK
YOU.

IT'S GOOD
TO KNOW THE
WORLD'S TOP
MINDS ARE KEEPING
AN EYE ON ME.



DID YOU CALL
ME "DUDE" BACK
THERE?

I
ABSOLUTELY
DID NOT.

AH,
THERE'S MY
REMINDER.

REMINDER,
DR. BANNER?



THE REMINDER I CODED
FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. AND
ANYONE ELSE WHO
NEEDS IT.

FOR
HANK &
TONY



THE REMINDER
THAT **BANNER**
IS THE SMARTEST
ONE THERE IS.

THE END.

BOOOOM

OUCH.

SPAK

YOU'VE GOT THIS, PULL UP--OOOPS.

SPAK

SPAK

YOU FORGOT TO PULL UP, WAIT, WATCH OUT FOR--

CRACK

UHN!

OOO. YEAH. I MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE LATE ON THAT ONE.

YOU ALL RIGHT, BIG GUY? THOR?

NEED A HAND? I'D BRING YOU YOUR HAMMER, BUT YOU KNOW. THE WHOLE "WORTHINESS" THING.

HEY, HAS A NUN EVER TRIED TO PICK IT UP? OR THE DALAI LAMA? OR RYAN GOSLING?

ICEMAN...

...NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THIS.

WHAT? BECAUSE OF THEM?

YES! BECAUSE OF THEM!







YOUR LIGHTNING IS NOTHING TO ME, GODLING. I WAS ANCIENT WHEN YOU WERE NOTHING, AND I SHALL RULE LONG AFTER YOU ARE DUST!

MIDGARD'S DEATH HAS COME, LITTLE ASGARDIAN. AND THERE IS NOTHING YOUR POWER CAN DO TO STOP IT.



WHAT A TOOL. HIM, I MEAN. NOT YOUR HAMMER.

ALTHOUGH YOUR HAMMER IS NICE.

YOU BELIEVE JOKES WILL WIN THIS DAY?

...I HAVEN'T TRIED THEM ALL YET.

HAWKEYE MAKES JOKES...



...BUT THEN HE DOES SOMETHING.

SUMMON THE REST OF THE X-MEN AND AVENGERS. I WILL DEAL WITH YMIR. WITH THUNDER... AND LIGHTNING.



THOR, WILL YOU JUST WAIT?!

DID YOU EVEN LISTEN TO YMIR? THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS! HE'S PLAYING WITH YOU!

THIS IS NO GAME.





NO...
WHAT HAVE
I DONE?

WHAT THE
WHAT NOW? FUTURE
WINTERS?

THE
CASKET OF
ANCIENT WINTERS
WAS AN ANCIENT
ARTIFACT CREATED BY
YMIR, IT CONTAINED
THE SUM OF
ALL COLD.



"I HAD SENT THE CASKET OUTSIDE
OF EVIL'S REACH...BUT NEVER DID
I CONCEIVE THAT YMIR WOULD
CONSTRUCT A NEW ONE."

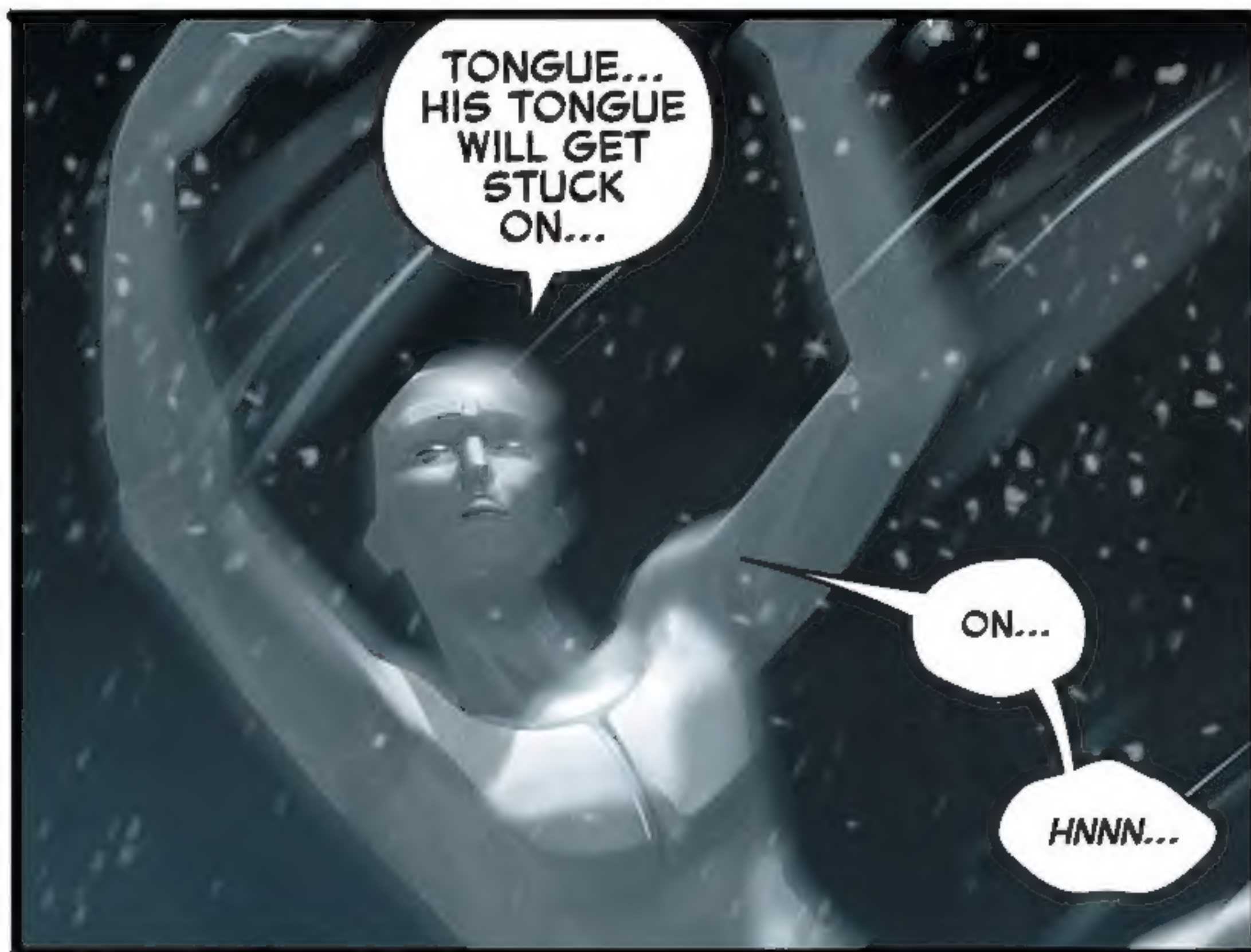
I COMMAND
YOU OPEN, CASKET.
UNLEASH YOUR FURY.
BEYOND THE COLD OF
NIFFELHEIM...BEFORE
THE CHILL OF DEATH
ITSELF...

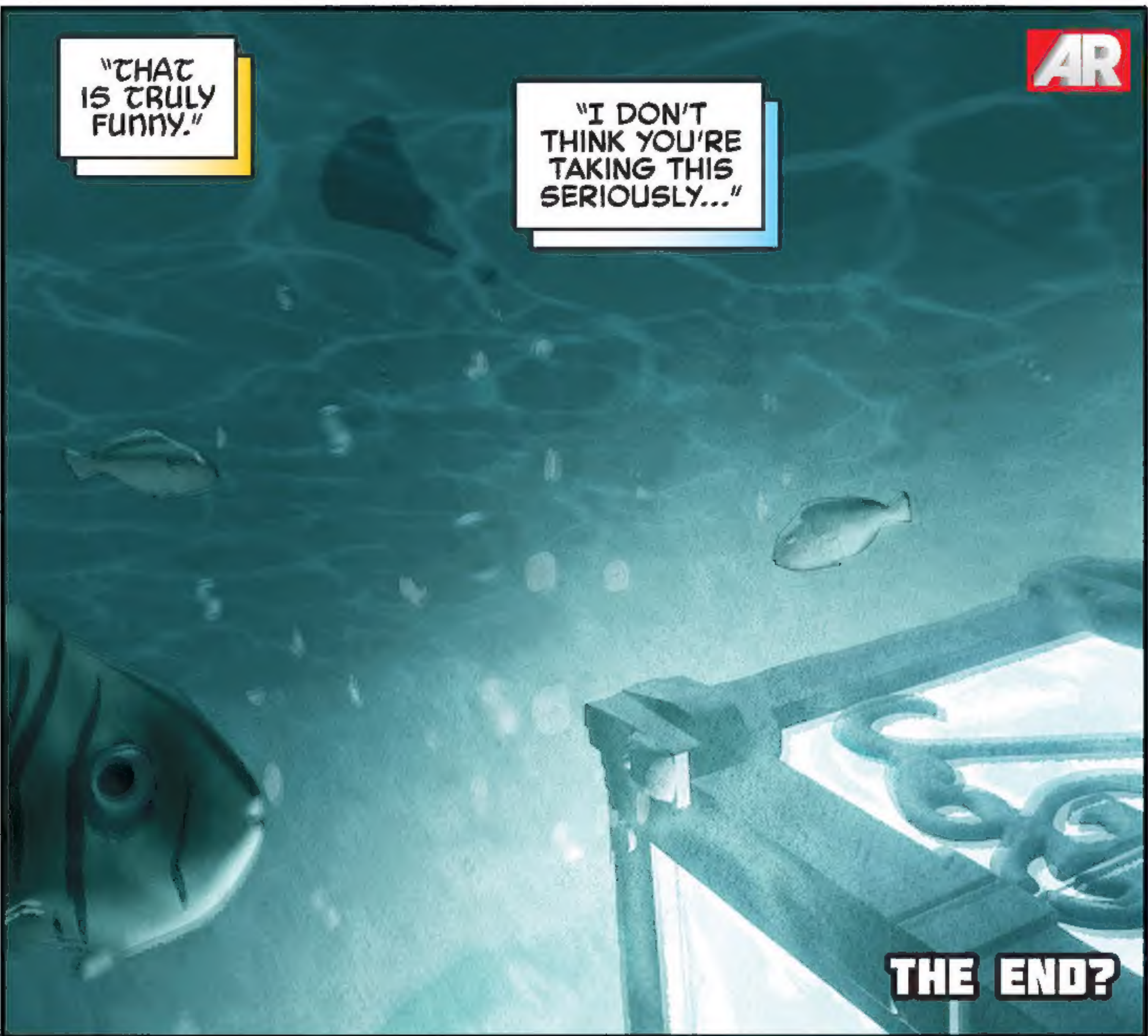


I CALL
UPON THE
ICY WINDS OF
OBLIVION!









NEXT ISSUE:



